

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

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AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

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C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 7723

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: POLITICAL PARTIES SUBMIT PROPOSALS ON AFM-PARTIES PACT

REF: (A) LISBON 7525 (DTG 181726Z DEC 75), (B) LISBON 7654
(DTG 291237Z DEC 75)

SUMMARY: POLITICAL PARTIES SUBMITTED PROPOSALS FOR REVISION OF
ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT-PARTIES PACT DEC 30. PROPOSALS
FOLLOWED PREDICTABLE LINES, ALTHOUGH POPULAR DEMOCRATS INJECTED
NEW TWIST WITH REFERENDUM ON CONSTITUTION. ACCEPTANCE OF
REFERENDUM WOULD GIVE PPD OPTION IN FUTURE OF OPPOSING RATI-
FICATION OF CONSTITUTION, MANY OF WHOSE ECONOMIC PROVISIONS
PPD CONSIDERS TOO FAR LEFT. RC MEMBER CDR VICTOR CRESPO
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FAVORED CONTINUED ROLE IN DECISIONS FOR REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL,

AND OPPOSED DIRECT ELECTION OF PRESIDENT. NOMINATION OF RUI MACHETE AS MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS WAS CONFIRMED, COMPLETING AZEVEDO CABINET. END SUMMARY.

1. AFM-PARTIES PACT: POLITICAL PARTIES DELIVERED THEIR PROPOSALS FOR MODIFICATION OF ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT-POLITICAL PARTIES PACT DEC 30.

-- PPD PROPOSAL: POPULAR DEMOCRATIC PARTY LEADER SA CARNEIRO SAID DEC 30 THAT PPD HAD PROPOSED NATIONAL REFERENDUM ON CONSTITUTION; LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ELECTED FOR FOUR-YEAR PERIODS; AND REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL (RC) WITH LIMITED LEGISLATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES INCLUDING MILITARY ORGANIZATION AND STRUCTURE OF ARMED FORCES. RC WOULD HAVE COMPETENCE TO PROPOSE JUDICIAL MEASURES, BUT NOT TO PERFORM CONSTITUTIONAL REVIEW. PPD PROPOSED DIRECT ELECTION OF PRESIDENT FOR FOUR-YEAR TERM AND SELECTION OF PRIME MINISTER IN ACCORD WITH PARLIAMENTARY MAJORITY.

-- PS PROPOSAL: SOCIALIST PARTY PROPOSED THAT RC BE CONSULTED ON MATTERS OF NATIONAL INTEREST AND OBLIGATORILY ON SELECTION OF PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF DEFENSE, AND CHIEF JUSTICE, DISSOLUTION OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, DECLARATION OF STATE OF SIEGE, AND MILITARY LEGISLATION. PS PROPOSED DIRECT ELECTION OF PRESIDENT.

-- CDS PROPOSAL: SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC CENTER PARTY (CDS) SAID THAT IF FAVORS DIRECT ELECTION OF PRESIDENT, AND REPLACEMENT OF RC BY COUNCIL OF STATE WHOSE FUNCTIONS WOULD NOT INFRINGE ON THOSE OF GOVERNMENT, LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, OR COURTS. CDS STATED THAT ARMED FORCES COULD HAVE MAJORITY ON COUNCIL OF STATE.

-- MDP/CDE PROPOSAL: CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF FELLOW-TRAVELLING PORTUGUESE DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT (MDP/CDE) STATED THAT ITS PROPOSAL RECOMMENDED RETENTION OF ORIGINAL PACT'S PROVISION FOR INDIRECT ELECTION OF PRESIDENT THROUGH MECHANISM DOMINATED BY ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT ASSEMBLY. IN ADDITION, MDP/CDE ADVOCATED RETENTION OF RC AS SOVEREIGN BODY WITH FULL POWERS PROVIDED FOR IN APRIL PACT.

2. CRESPO ON PACT: CDR VICTOR CRESPO, MEMBER OF REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL AND ADVOCATE OF POLITICAL ROLE FOR MILITARY, TOOK FOLLOWING POSITIONS ON PACT IN DEC 31 INTERVIEW.

-- PRESIDENCY: DIRECT ELECTION OF PRESIDENT COULD HAVE "VERY CONFIDENTIAL

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GRAVE CONSEQUENCES AND PREJUDICE NATIONAL INTERESTS AND THE REVOLUTION, ALTHOUGH PARTIES WOULD BENEFIT FROM PROPOSING CANDIDATES." IT WOULD BE ADVANTAGEOUS TO HAVE MILITARY PRESIDENT AT PRESENT MOMENT, ALTHOUGH IN FUTURE HE COULD BE CIVILIAN.

-- RC ROLE: RC SHOULD RETAIN ROLE IN DECISIONS, AND NOT BECOME MERELY CONSULTATIVE BODY. RC SHOULD PROPOSE MEASURES TO LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, AND ACT AS CONSTITUTIONAL TRIBUNAL TO ENSURE THAT POLITICAL ORIENTATION OF COUNTRY FOLLOWS LINES

SET DOWN BY CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY.

-- AFM ASSEMBLY: DAILY DECISIONS SHOULD BE PROVINCE OF GOVERNMENT AND LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, BUT AFM NEEDS AFM ASSEMBLY OR SOME OTHER MILITARY FORUM TO DISCUSS PROBLEMS OF GREAT NATIONAL IMPORTANCE SUCH AS ROLE OF ARMED FORCES IN POLITICAL LIFE.

3. RUI MACHETE NAMED: NOMINATION OF PPD SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EMIGRATION, RUI MACHETE, AS MINISTER OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS WAS CONFIRMED DEC 30, COMPLETING CABINET OF AZEVEDO GOVERNMENT. PPD WILL PROPOSE NEW CANDIDATE FOR EMIGRATION SLOT. MACHETE IS MEMBER OF PPD SECRETARIAT, AND ONE OF TOP FOUR FIGURES IN PARTY. HE HAS BEEN ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AND EDITOR OF PARTY NEWSPAPER. HE ASSUMED MANY OF FUNCTIONS OF SECRETARY-GENERALSHIP DURING SA CARNEIRO'S ILLNESS IN EARLY 1975. HE IS RESPECTED IN PARTY AND OUTSIDE, AS DEDICATED WORKER. HE HAS BEEN FRIENDLY AND OPEN IN CONTACT WITH EMBASSY.

4. MERCHANT MARINE SECRETARY SUBMITS RESIGNATION: REFUSAL BY SAILORS OF PORTUGAL'S MERCHANT MARINE TO WORK OVERTIME UNTIL GENEROUS LABOR CONTRACT NEGOTIATED PRIOR TO NOV 25 COUP ATTEMPT IS PUT INTO EFFECT LED SECRETARY OF STATE FOR MERCHANT MARINE, FRANCISCO GUEDES LEBRE, A COMMUNIST, TO SUBMIT HIS RESIGNATION DEC 30. WORKER ACTION, WHICH BEGAN DEC 23, HAS EFFECTIVELY CURTAILED PORTUGUESE-FLAG MERCHANT SHIPPING. IT HAS CAUSED CONGESTION BUT HAS NOT SHUT DOWN PORT OF LISBON. IF DISPUTE DRAGS ON, IT COULD SERIOUSLY AFFECT AZORES AND MADEIRA, AND PORTUGUESE IMPORTS.

5. COMMENT: PARTY PROPOSALS ON PACT FOLLOW PREDICTABLE LINES (REFS A AND B). PPD PROPOSAL FOR REFERENDUM ON CONSTITUTION IS NEW FEATURE, AND ITS ACCEPTANCE WOULD GIVE CONFIDENTIAL

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PPD OPTION IN FUTURE OF OPPOSING RATIFICATION OF CONSTITUTION WHOSE ECONOMIC PROVISIONS IT HAS OPPOSED AS TOO LEFTIST. PCP HAS NOT STATED ITS PROPOSAL FOR PACT, BUT BASED ON COMMUNIST DOMINATION OF MDP IT IS SAFE ASSUMPTION THAT THEIR PROPOSAL REFLECTS COMMUNIST PRESCRIPTION.
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